In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 8, 14, 15, and 18, and cancel claims 2 and 9 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for safely accessing shared storage media in a computer
　　　environment having two or more nodes comprising:
　　　establishing access rights of ~~of~~ said nodes to said storage media, the step of establishing
access rights is responsive at least in part to a hard attribute of ~~associated~~ said shared storage
media, wherein said hard attribute includes a hardware identifier field having data selected from
a group consisting of: a vendor number, a product number, a serial number, and combinations
thereof; and
　　　accessing said storage media by one of said ~~at least two of said~~ nodes ~~in response~~
according to said access rights.

2. 　　　Canceled

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of establishing access rights
　　　includes creating a label including said hard attribute, a type field, and a node identifier
　　　field.

4. (Original)　The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of allowing access of a node to
　　　　　said storage media if said type field indicates said storage media is node-owned
　　　　　and said node identifier matches a node identifier of said node.

5. (Original)　The method of claim 3, wherein said label further includes:
　　　　　a cluster identifier; and
　　　　　further comprising the step of allowing access of a node in a cluster to said storage
　　　media if said type field indicates said storage media is cluster-owned and said cluster
　　　identifier matches a cluster identifier of said node.

6. (Original)   The method of claim 3, wherein said label further includes an activity interval field and an activity counter field for protecting ownership of said storage media.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~computing~~ computer environment is a storage area network.

8. (Currently Amended) A computing environment comprising:

two or more nodes;

shared storage media;

~~associated~~ said storage media having a hard attribute;

said hard attribute includes a hardware identifier field having data selected from a group consisting of: a vendor number, a product number, a serial number, and combinations thereof; and

an access manager for each of at least two of said nodes, said manager provides access to said storage media ~~being responsive~~ at least in part to said hard attribute.

9.   Canceled

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein said access manager ~~is responsive~~ provides access to said storage media in response at least in part to a label, said label including said hard attribute, a type field, and a node identifier field.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, further comprising a positive access response from said access manager if said type field indicates said media is node-owned and said node identifier field matches a node identifier of said node.

12. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein said label further includes a cluster identifier field; and further comprising a positive access response from said access manager if said type field indicates said media is cluster-owned and said cluster identifier matches a cluster identifier of said node.

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13. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein said label further comprises an activity data field and an activity counter field to protect ownership of said media.

14. (Currently Amended)   An article comprising:

a computer-readable medium;

means in the medium for accessing shared storage media, said ~~shared~~ storage media having ~~associated storage media having~~ a hard attribute including a hardware identifier field having data selected from a group consisting of: a vendor number, a product number, a serial number, and combinations thereof;

means in the medium for establishing access rights of at least two nodes to said storage media at least in part in response to said hard attribute; and

means in the medium for managing an access request to said storage media in response to said access rights.

15. (Previously Presented)   The article of claim 14, wherein the medium is a recordable data storage medium.

16. (Original) The article of claim 14, wherein said managing means grants a positive access request to a node responsive to confirmation of node ownership of said media.

17. (Original) The article of claim 14, wherein said managing means grants a positive access request to a node in a cluster responsive to confirmation of cluster ownership of said media.

18. (Currently Amended)   A method for safely accessing shared storage media in a computing environment having two or more ~~node~~ nodes comprising:

(a)   writing a label, said label being determined at least in part by a hardware identifier of ~~associated storage media of~~ said storage media, said hardware identifier including data selected from a group consisting of: a vendor number, a product number, and a serial number of said storage media;

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(b)   establishing access rights of a node to said storage media ~~responsive~~ <u>according</u> to said label; and

(c)   coordinating access to said storage media ~~responsive~~ <u>according</u> to said label.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of allowing access of a node to said storage media if a type field in said label indicates said storage media is node-owned and a node identifier in said label matches a node identifier of said node.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of allowing access of a node in a cluster to said media if a type field in said label indicates said storage media is cluster-owned and a cluster identifier in said label matches a cluster identifier of said node.